

REMARKS:

Requirement for Restriction. The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C § 121 among the following claims:

Group I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a method for controlling microbial contamination of drinking water, classified in class 210, subclass 764;

Group II. Claims 12, 13, 15, and 16, drawn to a composition containing zeolite and a zinc compound, classified in class 502, subclass 60;

Group III. Claims 17-19, drawn to a method of making a composition containing zeolite and a zinc compound, classified in class 502, subclass 85.

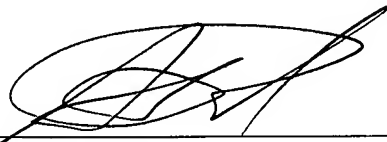
Applicant elects Claims 12, 13, 15, and 16, represented by Group II, with traverse.

A single inventive concept runs through all of the claims of Groups I-III, namely containing and/or using a zeolite that contains at least one ion for the purpose of controlling the microbial contamination of drinking water. The Examiner's rationale in making this restriction requirement is not understood since he will have to consult with the art directed to the methods in the rendering of any opinion on the patentability of the composition claims.

CONCLUSION

For the stated reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit the Deposit Account No. 12-1322 of Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP under Order No. 12-1322 (021544-00002). In light of the foregoing remarks, the claims of the application have been distinguished over the cited references. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (713) 226-1218 should he deem it necessary to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



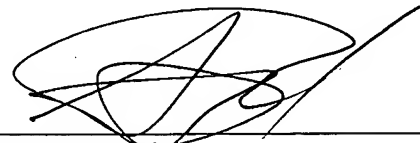
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DATED: July 20, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence was mailed by first class mail to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 20th day of July 2005.



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DATED: July 20, 2005